WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An information processing apparatus for inputting a pronunciation symbol corresponding to an English notation, comprising:

5   pronunciation symbol information holding means for holding pronunciation symbol information indicating a relationship between a predetermined alphabet and a pronunciation symbol that starts from the predetermined alphabet;

10   pronunciation symbol statistical information holding means for holding statistical information associated with a probability of occurrence of each pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined pronunciation symbol;

15   display means for extracting pronunciation symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the pronunciation symbol information, and displaying the extracted pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical information; and

20   determination means for determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the displayed pronunciation symbols.

2.   An information processing apparatus for inputting a pronunciation symbol corresponding to an English

25 notation, comprising:

        associative pronunciation symbol information holding means for holding associative pronunciation

symbol information indicating a relationship between a predetermined alphabet and a pronunciation symbol when the predetermined alphabet forms a part of an arbitrary English notation;

5   pronunciation symbol statistical information holding means for holding statistical information associated with a probability of occurrence of each pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined pronunciation symbol;

10   display means for extracting pronunciation symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the associative pronunciation symbol information, and displaying the extracted pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical

15   information; and

determination means for determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the displayed pronunciation symbols.

3.   An information processing method in an

20   information processing apparatus for inputting a pronunciation symbol corresponding to an English notation, comprising:

a pronunciation symbol information holding step of holding pronunciation symbol information indicating

25   a relationship between a predetermined alphabet and a pronunciation symbol that starts from the predetermined alphabet;

a pronunciation symbol statistical information holding step of holding statistical information associated with a probability of occurrence of each pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined

5   pronunciation symbol;

a display step of extracting pronunciation symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the pronunciation symbol information, and displaying the extracted pronunciation symbols while sorting them on

10 the basis of the statistical information; and

a determination step of determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English notation from the displayed pronunciation symbols.

4.   An information processing method in an

15 information processing apparatus for inputting a pronunciation symbol corresponding to an English notation, comprising:

an associative pronunciation symbol information holding step of holding associative pronunciation

20 symbol information indicating a relationship between a predetermined alphabet and a pronunciation symbol when the predetermined alphabet forms a part of an arbitrary English notation;

a pronunciation symbol statistical information

25 holding step of holding statistical information associated with a probability of occurrence of each pronunciation symbol immediately after a predetermined

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pronunciation symbol;

a display step of extracting pronunciation symbols corresponding to an input alphabet from the associative pronunciation symbol information, _and

5 displaying the extracted pronunciation symbols while sorting them on the basis of the statistical information; and

a determination step of determining a pronunciation symbol corresponding to the English

10 notation from the displayed pronunciation symbols.

5. A control program for making a computer implement an information processing method of claim 3.

6. A control program for making a computer implement an information processing method of claim 4.

15 7. A storage medium storing a control program for making a computer implement an information processing method of claim 3.

8. A storage medium storing a control program for making a computer implement an information processing

20 method of claim 4.